

Making Montana Proud



Cinnamon Spear, 30
Northern Cheyenne
Lame Deer High School
B.A./M.A.
Dartmouth College
M.F.A. University of Iowa
IHS Public Affairs Specialist



My strongest message to youth is to find your passion and follow it fiercely. Never give up. Even though the future feels far away, it isn't. The future is now. Every decision you make today will impact your life five years from now, ten years from now. Stay focused, make good decisions today that will lead you to fulfilling your life's purpose. Protect your sacred, honor who you are, and fight hard for who you are meant to become.

Making Montana Proud



Vernon Grant, 36
Blackfeet
GED
A.A. Elementary
Education, Blackfeet
Community College
B.S. Health Enhancement
University of Montana
M.S. Exercise Science UM
PhD Exercise Science and
Community Health UM
Assistant Research
Professor



Addressing the significant needs that exist back home is a huge motivator for me. I intend to spend the rest of my career on finding strategies that cast the broadest net and impact as many people as possible to prevent disease and help them to live a healthy lifestyle. There's much work to be done, but I've been given a platform to influence others in a positive way, and I intend to do that to the best of my ability.

Making Montana Proud



Kasey Nicholson, 38
A'aninin & Pikuni
Harlem High School
B.S. Health and Human
Development MSU-Bozeman
M.S. Rehabilitation & Mental
Health MSU-Billings
Motivational Speaker and
Comedian



When I think of Montana Proud, I think of a place to call home and take pride into what I had help building. Each of us have a hand in making Montana what it is today. We all have an influence, negative or positive, to shape the communities, towns, cities, counties, or regions we are a part of. So when I think of Montana, it's just not a place in the country, it's a place I respect, love, cherish, and take pride in. It's home.

Making Montana Proud



Jennifer Show, 36
Fort Belknap Assiniboine
Harlem High School
B.S./DNP Nursing
MSU-Bozeman
Diabetes Coordinator for
Fort Belknap



Success is typically defined as the attainment of “things.” But success is much more than that. Success is achieving your vision or accomplishing your goals. Success is shaping your own destiny. I’m always thrown off by the label of “role model.” But I hope kids can look at me and what I have accomplished and think “if she can do it, I can do it.” And they would be right, if I can do it so can they.

Making Montana Proud



LeAnn Montes, 36
Chippewa-Cree
Box Elder High School
B.S. Business Management
University of Montana
J.D. University of New
Mexico School of Law
Chippewa-Cree Tribe
Attorney General

After graduating from law school I moved back to the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation, and dedicated my professional career to fostering positive tribal programs, economic development, leadership, and youth empowerment within my community. One way I do this is my strong belief in language revitalization and taking the proper steps in preserving and strengthening our communities culture.

Making Montana Proud



Mariah Gladstone, 24
Blackfeet & Cherokee
Glacier High School
B.S. Environmental Engineering
Columbia University
Founder of Indigikitchen,
Culinary Artist

Getting my education allowed me to see where many of the problems originate which then gave me the ability to see how we can overcome them. Blackfeet values have guided me through much of my life. As Pikuni, we learn to put our community in front of self; our strength comes from our symbiotic relationships. I have not succeeded in spite of my Indigenous identity, I have succeeded BECAUSE of it.

Making Montana Proud



Levi Horn, 31
Northern Cheyenne
John R. Rogers High School
B.S. Sociology of
Criminology
University of Montana
Spokane Community
College
Chemical Dependency
Counselor



Creator has given all of us a gift, we just have to find it by trying new things and practice, practice, and practice. Setting small goals and achieving them have helped me become more confident. Not giving up after failing, but finding a new solution to the problem has helped me continue down my path.

Ma King of Montana



Echo Marie Brown, 36
Qlispé (Upper Kalispel/
Pend d'Oreille)
Ronan High School
Salish Kootenai College
Salish Language Teacher



I am so proud to be working at Nk^wusm Salish Language Immersion School. Because, language is the foundation of culture and identity. The more Salish language I learn, the better I understand my own culture and history, and the better I understand who I am. I was given the opportunity to learn my ancestor's language and since then I feel a strong desire, an obligation even, to do my best to pass on what I know.